(544)

UNITED NATIONS **ST**

Secretariat

ST/IC/1996/1
5 January 1996

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

To: Members of the staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Conference and Support Services

Subject: STRIKE BY CUSTODIAL CLEANERS AND ELEVATOR OPERATORS AGAINST BUILDING OWNERS, REPRESENTED BY THE REALTY ADVISORY BOARD

1. On 4 January 1996, labour union 32B-J, representing custodial cleaners and elevator workers, called for a city-wide strike. The cleaners and elevator operators assigned to the United Nations premises are employees of Ogden Allied, a company contracted by the Organization to provide these services, and are not United Nations staff members; hence the operation of the elevators and cleaning services will be affected at the Secretariat building, as well as other commercial buildings occupied by the United Nations at 866 United Nations Plaza, 801 United Nations Plaza and 345 Park Avenue South and the DC1, DC2 and DC3 buildings. As in any labour negotiation, it will be difficult to determine the duration of the strike. The United Nations is not a party to any disputes or ongoing negotiations, but as in the past, the United Nations shall honour the terms of any agreement between the labour union and the Realty Advisory Board.

2. For the duration of the strike, there will be a reduction in cleaning services and elevator operation, which may inconvenience the staff. All staff are therefore requested to cooperate and extend their assistance in providing certain custodial-related tasks in their respective work areas:

(a) At the end of the day, please empty wastebaskets by depositing trash in plastic bags provided for this purpose on each floor, or in the bins located by the freight elevator, which will be clearly marked. Replacement bags for individual wastebaskets will be provided daily by the Buildings Management Service;

(b) Please keep office surroundings neat and clean;

(c) In critical or urgent situations, limited custodial service will be provided.

3. As a reminder, good security practices include not leaving any valuables on desks overnight; not leaving valuables in unattended or open areas; ensuring that office doors are locked at the end of the day; when working late at night, informing an associate or colleague; reporting to the Security Control Centre, ext. 3-6666, the presence of anyone who does not appear to belong in the work area. Staff are also reminded that they are required to wear their United Nations identification cards at all times.